



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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State OES Announces Two New Rapid Response Regional Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces for Southern California

SACRAMENTO – The Governor's Office of Emergency Services announced today that it has certified two additional Regional Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Forces in Southern California:

Los Angeles Fire and Rescue Operational Area-E

Santa Fe Springs Fire Department

Downey Fire Department

Montebello Fire Department

Pasadena Fire Department

Santa Fe Springs Fire Department

Vernon Fire Department

Long Beach Fire Department

"I commend the actions of the cities of Santa Fe Springs and Long Beach for assembling these multi-disciplined rescue teams; they will be a valuable asset to OES in its mission to support our state's cities and counties during disasters," said OES Director Henry Renteria.

"These are lighter and quicker task forces than our eight 70-member US&R teams," said Kim Zagaris, OES Fire and Rescue Chief. "These teams will mobilize into a disaster scene within 45 minutes and begin initial search operations and lay the ground work for our large teams that respond within several hours."

Each task force consists of a medical doctor, structural engineers, specialists in hazardous materials and weapons of mass destructions, paramedics, mobile intensive care nurses, specially-trained firefighters, public works specialists, search dogs, heavy equipment and rigging technicians, search and rescue and other uniquely trained personnel.

The teams are designed to respond to disasters within the regional Southern California Area, but can also be mobilized statewide by OES through the State's Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System.

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